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SUBJECT: BATTLE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION
AND JEWISH AGENCY

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE
HAVE ENDORSED CANDIDACY OF HAIFA MAYOR JOSEPH ALMOGI TO
FILL TOP POSTS OF WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION (WZO) AND
JEWISH AGENCY (JA) LEFT VACANT BY DEATH OF PINHAS SAPIR.
WHILE ALMOGI'S RIVAL, JA'S ACTING CHAIRMAN ARYE DULZIN,
IS ABLE ADMINISTRATOR, HIS OPPOSITION TO SINAI II AND
LEADERSHIP IN LIKUD OPPOSITION APPEAR TO HAVE MINIMIZED
HIS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS. HIS EFFORTS TO CHALLENGE
TRADITION THAT SAME PERSON SHOULD HEAD WZO AND JA ALSO
APPEARS TO BE DOOMED. END SUMMARY

1. WITH WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION (WZO) MEETING COMING
UP IN JANUARY 1976, THE STRUGGLE FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF
WZO AND THE JEWISH AGENCY (JA) LEFT VACANT BY THE DEATH
OF PINHAS SAPIR ON AUGUST 12 IS NOW MOVING INTO HIGH GEAR
AND ASSUMING STRONG PARTISAN POLITICAL CHARACTER. LABOR PARTY
IS SEEKING TO ASSURE ELECTION OF ITS CANDIDATE, WHILE
OPPOSITION IS TRYING TO BREAK PRECEDENT THAT CANDIDATE
FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS MUST HAVE GOI
ENDORSEMENT.

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2. THE CONTENDERS FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF THESE TWO PRINCIPAL ORGANIZATIONS LINKING ISRAEL AND JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE DIASPORA ARE A) JOSEPH ALMOGI, MAYOR OF HAIFA AND EX-MINISTER OF LABOR, WHO HAS ENDORSEMENT OF LABOR PARTY AND PRIME MINISTER, AND B) ARYE DULZIN WHO IS ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE JEWISH AGENCY SINCE SAPIR'S DEATH AND CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBERAL PARTY (LIKUD) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

3. IN LAST TWO WEEKS, PRIME MINISTER RABIN HAS STRONGLY LOBBIED FOR ALMOGI AMONG THE LEADERS OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS-- ESPECIALLY THE WORLD ZIONIST FEDERATION AND THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL. THE LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE GAVE ALMOGI ITS UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT ON OCT 9. BOTH NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS AND RECENT STATEMENTS BY UJA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AMBASSADOR INDICATE THAT ALMOGI IS EXPECTED TO OBTAIN A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY OF THE 110 MEMBER WZO GENERAL COUNCIL WHEN IT MEETS IN JANUARY, SINCE FOREIGN JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT THE CANDIDATE WHO HAS THE ENDORSEMENT OF RABIN AND LABOR PARTY.

4. DULZIN, WHO IS KNOWN AND RESPECTED IN U.S. AND EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES, AS ABLE ADMINISTRATOR AND HAS SUPPORT OF ISRAELI BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND OTHER NON-LABOR ALIGNMENT GROUPS, FEELS THAT HIS RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT AS ACTING HEAD OF JA ENTITLES HIM TO SUCCEED SAPIR. HE THUS IS TRYING TO CHALLENGE PRECEDENT THAT THE HEAD OF WZO AND JA MUST HAVE GOI ENDORSEMENT AND BE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON. MOREOVER, HE FEELS THAT THE ARGUMENT THAT THE CANDIDATE MUST BE FROM THE LABOR PARTY BECAUSE OF WZPO AND JA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO JEWISH IMMIGRATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE INSTITUTIONS IS EVEN LESS VALID REBUTTAL HE CHARGES THAT GOI BUREAUCRATIC INEFFICIENCY AND PRESENT HOUSING PROBLEMS HAVE DISCOURAGED IMMIGRATION WHICH IS VITAL FOR ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL. HOWEVER, FACT THAT HE PUBLICLY ENDORSED KILUD'S OPPOSITION TO INTERIM SINAI AGREEMENT APPEARS TO HAVE FURTHER ERODED WHATEVER SMALL CHANCES OF ELECTION HE HAD AND REINFORCED RABIN'S ARGUMENT THAT UNTENABLE SITUATION WOULD BE CREATED IF JEWISH AGENCY/WZO HEAD WERE CHOSEN FROM OPPOSITION RANKS.

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5. ALTHOUGH ALMOGI NOW IS CLEARLY FAVORED TO GET WZO/JA CHAIRMANSHIPS, SUCCESSION IS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT WHILE WZO GENERAL COUNCIL CONVENES IN JANUARY, JA ASSEMBLY IS NOT DUE TO MEET UNTIL JULY. THIS COULD CREATE ANOMALY OF HAVING WZO AND JA FOR SIX MONTHS HEADED BY SEPARATE CHAIRMEN, EACH WITH DIFFERENT POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION. GOI AND LEADERS OF THE TWO BODIES HAVE ALREADY AGREED THAT SUCH A DIVISION, EVEN ON TEMPORARY BASIS, IS NOT DESIRABLE. THUS

CURRENT PRESS SPECULATION IS THAT IF ALMOGI WINS, DULZIN
MAY RESIGN OR THAT JA WOULD CONVENE SPECIAL ASSEMBLY
IN FEBRUARY TO CONDUCT EARLY ELECTION.
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